

**George Washington to William Heath and John Sullivan,
October 18, 1778, The Writings of George Washington
from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John
C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Fredericksburg, October 18, 1778.

Dear Sir: I have just recd. intelligence, bearing strong marks of authenticity, that the enemy mean a total and immediate evacuation of New York. Various are the conjectures of their destination. I cannot think that they mean to attempt anything against Boston, considering the danger of carrying a large fleet round Cape Cod at this advanced season; but to be prepared at all events, I had, upon the first intimation of an embarkation, ordered two of the Brigades stationed at Danbury to move Eastward as far as Hartford;¹ I shall now order the third to follow. By the time they arrive there we shall probably come at a knowledge of the real intentions of the Enemy. I have communicated all my intelligence in the fullest manner, to the Count D'Estaing, that he may make such preparations as circumstances seem to require. I am etc.

P.S. Your favr. of the 12th has come to hand.²

[Ms.H.S.]

¹Hartford, Conn.

²In the writing of Tench Tilghman. Sparks prints this letter under date of Oct. 10, 1778. The same letter, minus the postscript, was sent to Maj. Gen. John Sullivan.